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# SOCCER WORLD

THE VOICE OF  
AUSTRALIAN SOCCER

15c

AUSTRALIA'S OLDEST AND ONLY INDEPENDENT SOCCER NEWSPAPER

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Best in Australia

Red Tulip

CONTINENTAL  
CHOCOLATES

## Year had some big ups and downs

Wonderful, rarely attainable heights and shocking, abysmal depths have alternated during the 1967 soccer season.

Indeed, one cannot recall another year when such huge ups and downs would have been crammed into one single season.

Let us admit in all fairness that most of our pleasant memories will be limited to actual matches.

In Manchester United the Australian public had the opportunity of applauding one of the very finest teams in the world.

The skill, indeed, artistry of Bobby Charlton, George Best, Denis Law, the up-and-coming Brian Kidd and the others was a rare treat.

So was the memorable Sydney Grand Final, possibly the best match seen in Sydney for years and the Australia Cup final in Melbourne, a tense, drama-packed struggle.

The tremendously successful Asian tour was undoubtedly the most ideal high note on which to end a season.

### IMPETUS

This should give soccer new impetus right throughout Australia and may be the turning point in our international career.

Off the field things have been much less satisfactory.

The code's administration in Sydney suffered some traumatic shocks which, in the end, reduced a nine-man Executive to a mere four.

An incredible amount of blundering followed by weeks of haggling — much of it utterly undignified — finally saw the NSW Executive completely reshaped and dynamically revitalised.

The State of Victoria also had their troubles in this regard with cliques feverishly working against each other.

Even the Australian Federation should not be too happy about 1967.

While they did score magnificently with the Manchester and even Scotland tours and then with the Saigon tournament, on the domestic front they have

not even started to bring the States closer to one another and strive towards uniformity.

What will 1968 bring? In the wake of the recent success in Asia, one should be confidently forecasting a general boom.

However, booms take more to create than that. Every country's soccer is only as strong as its clubs are — and far too many of our clubs are pathetically weak.

Club football is the bread and butter on which bigger things can be built and this is where the various administrations must concentrate most of their energies.

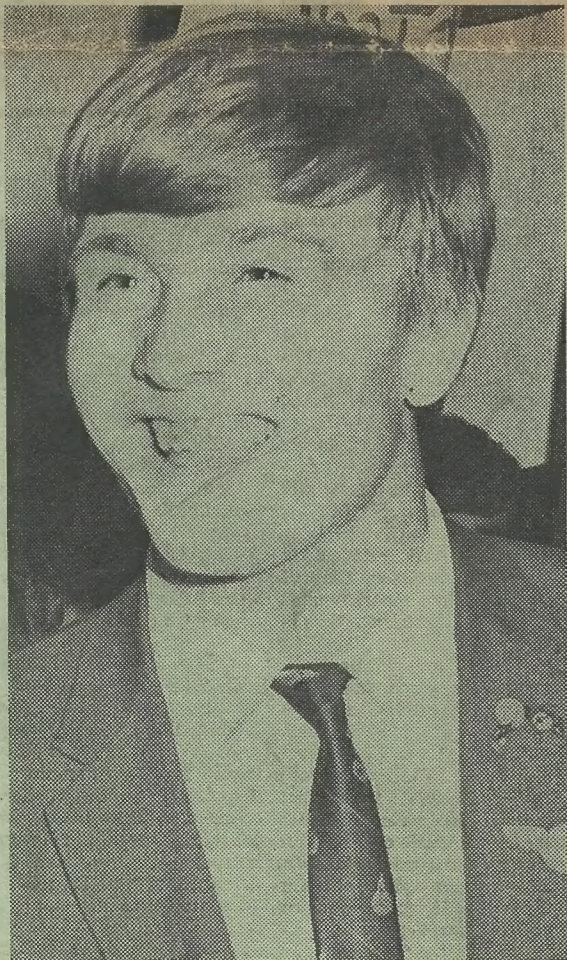
There is no reason on earth why 1968 should not show rapid upward trends in playing standards, attendances and consequently financial stability.

It is also probable that the international scene — both at home and overseas — will again be an exciting one.

Our grounds or at least some of them are likely to be in better shape than in the past.

And if all goes well, the Tempe dream may start turning into reality.

Let us sincerely hope that all these will come about and 1968 and spell the beginning of an overall improvement.



Alan Westwater's broad and happy grin at Mascot airport epitomised the success of the Australian team in Asia. This, undoubtedly, was the highlight of the season and may prove to be the turning point in our international career. Westwater will play on Wednesday night against visiting Slavia-Prague.

## LAST '67 ISSUE

This is the last issue of SOCCER WORLD for 1967.

We will resume publishing on January 19.

We wish all our readers and advertisers a very merry Christmas and a happy, prosperous, soccer-filled New Year.

## LUSTY CHOIR



"... it's a grand old team to play for..." This was the team's theme song in Asia and on their return to Sydney these five players gave a fine demonstration.

## Slavia certain to please Wed. crowd

The fourth Czechoslovakian team to visit Australia — Slavia Praha — will officially wind up the 1967 season at Marks Field tonight against a combined Prague-Pan Hellenic XI.

Ten and a half months ago it was another Czechoslovakian team, Sparta Praha, which kicked-off the season when they played Prague at the Sydney Show-ground on January 20.

Slovan Bratislava, in 1966, and Bohemians, in 1927, were our previous visitors from Czechoslovakia.

As with Slovan and Sparta, Slavia have been brought out by Sydney FC-Prague, the pioneers of international club soccer in Australia.

Apart from the crack Czechoslovakian clubs, Prague have brought Switzerland's FC Basel, West Germany's VfB Stuttgart and Sing Tao of Hong Kong to Australia since 1964.

In the last three occasions theirs was a joint venture with Pan Hellenic, so it's only fitting both clubs should combine their playing strengths tonight.

This combined team has been in solid training under Prague and NSW coach Joe Venglos for two weeks, and despite the long competitive lay-off for most of their players, Venglos is confident that the Sydneysiders will put on a brave show.

The Combined team's fate will rest largely on the

shoulders of Alan Westwater and Les Scheinflug, its midfield men.

Westwater, in particular, will be a key figure and his appearance after his brilliant form in Asia is keenly awaited.

The Sydney XI will field in addition to Westwater, full Australian internationals in Roy Blitz and Les Scheinflug, as well as under-23 internationals Johnston, Gary Manuel and Armytage.

### Famous stars

Slavia, unbeaten on their world tour so far, must naturally be favored to win.

Though they ended the first half of the Czechoslovakian competition at the tail-end of the ladder, Sydney fans can expect some scintillating football in the Slovan and Sparta manner.

The fame of their best known internationals, full-back Lala and winger Vesely, has spread to Australia.

How they compare with countrymen Popluhar, Pospichal, Kvasniak, Jurkanin and Jokl, who thrilled us with Slovan and Sparta, will be an added attraction tonight.

Slavia, however, are certainly not a two-man team. Their ranks abound in experienced, talented play-

ers who have made their mark on Czechoslovakian soccer.

Players like Smolik, Ledicky, Hildebrandt, Tesar, Knesl, Nepomucky, Moravek, Marecek, Hamar and Novak are all either "A", "B", Olympic or Youth internationals.

Slavia's coach, Frantisek Havranek, 44, is the coach of his country's "B" and Youth teams.

Havranek is reputed to be one of Czechoslovakia's most ardent exponents of bright, attacking football.

Under his guidance, Slavia have switched to a deliberately offensive game which is bound to please Sydney fans tonight, especially if their locals opponents respond by opening up.

### Likely teams:

Combined Prague-Pan Hellenic (in 4-2-4 formation): King, Harcombe, Zeman, Dounias, Johnston, Westwater, Scheinflug, Armytage, Gary Manuel, Karyannis, Blitz. Reserves: Clarke, Blacker, Woods, Gauto.

Slavia: Marecek; Lala, Smolik; Tesar, Hildebrandt, Knesl; Vesely, Novak, Nepomucky, Hamar, Pisa.

Referee: H. Parsons.

Slavia will play in Melbourne on Friday night, and in Adelaide, on Saturday, against Juventus.



# BERRIES PLAN BIG COMEBACK

— By KEITH GILMOUR —

When it comes to producing footballers, no Sydney district has a prouder record than Canterbury.

The District Association was formed 45 years ago, and since then it has won countless State titles, and given Australia some of its best Australian-born players.

The Canterbury-Marrickville team in the early Federation days, and especially inspired by Leo Baumgartner, also gave Australians their first real inkling of the latent possibilities of locally trained players.

Yet the Canterbury seniors have had their ups and downs over the years, and only recently Canterbury juniors have, not been dominating the Sydney scene.

From the junior viewpoint, only technicalities which will not recur, kept Canterbury away from the chance of Sydney or State amateur titles this year.

## Progressive methods

Actually, it is doubtful whether the Berries have moved back in junior circles.

They have continued to use the best methods they can find for advancement, but the district has no new housing developments, which allowed their competitors to race far ahead numerically and bridge the gap in standards.

All the associations which surround Canterbury were once insignificant — Banks-town, St. George, Eastern Suburbs and Western Suburbs — but today they mainly compete with Canterbury as equals, which of course, is for the good of the sport.

Canterbury's junior clubs are amongst the best conducted in the nation, and there is always a fund of tried administrators ready to move up to the association management committee.

Cec Barlow acted as president for over 30 years, Andy Burton served his early years in the juniors entirely, and Bill Brackenbury is completing his 25th year as secretary.

## Strong amateurs

Many other enthusiasts such as Jack Toole and Jack Payne worked effectively for the district over the years.

One-hundred and seventy-eight teams were fielded in 1967, and clubs such as Lakemba RSL and Punchbowl ran extra competitions for youngsters — the "mini-leagues."

Earlwood Wanderers won the All-Age First Division for 1967.

They defeated Canterbury, the minor premiers, after numerous play-offs, and then went on to prove their mettle by becoming Sydney's "Champion of Champions."

Punchbowl won the reserve grade.

All-Age Division II was won by Hurlstone Park, and Enfield was successful in Division III.

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The Association is determined to eradicate some of the behaviour problems which took place in All-Age in 1967.

Belmore won the under-18 competition.

There was only one under-18 competition, as so many talented players are going directly into the third grade teams of Canterbury, South Sydney-Croatia and other clubs, and to the Inter-Suburban Amateurs.

## Fragmentation

Some of Sydney's strongest amateur teams, such as Belmore and Marrickville, are Canterbury district products.

This year the under-16 First Division was won by Lansvale, from Southern Districts, with Belmore Police Boys winning the Second Division.

Successful as Canterbury is on the junior level, it unquestionably suffers from fragmentation when the full pattern of football in the district is examined.

The association stands as a unit, the Canterbury-Marrickville club as another, and the proposed social club has had to bear numerous setbacks.

Top leadership can overcome these problems.

Does municipal jealousy have an effect on the social club in view of the separate Canterbury and Marrickville Councils?

Canterbury as a whole will show the full measure of its ability as a soccer district when these problems are resolved.

The Canterbury Association president, Reg Grey, has been on the M.C. since 1962, and is looking to 1968 as a year when some of the outstanding problems are conquered, and the Metropolitan and State titles are again right within Canterbury's grasp.

# SOCCER TO AID OLYMPIC FUND

"Soccer will be happy to help the Australian Olympic team get to Mexico," NSW Executive Committee President Jim Bayutti said this week.

"I am certain that wherever soccer fans and supporters see an opportunity, they will help in the fund-raising."

Jim Bayutti said the NSW Federation would also consider other ways and means of helping the Olympic Fund.

The Australia-wide Appeal, officially launched in February, has set a target of \$270,000 to finance the Olympic team's expenses.

NSW's share is \$90,000, Victoria's also \$90,000 and Queensland's \$40,000 while the other States between them will raise the remaining \$50,000.

Chairman of the appeal in NSW is Bill Northam who won a gold medal in sailing at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics.

Other prominent businessmen and sportsmen in the executive include L.J. Hooker, Commodore R. Dickson, Bill Young, Sid Grange, and Jim Bayutti himself.

A huge Australia-wide TV

Hakoah will announce the name of their new COACH some time next week. Club officials are now busily sifting through the many applications. Hot tip is Doug Holden. Jim Adam, the Victorian who was Venglos' assistant with the Australian team against Scotland, is almost certain to be appointed assistant-coach. He will be mainly concerned with the club's young prospects.

The American club, DALLAS TORNADOES, will play in Sydney against NSW on Friday, January 19. The Americans will also play in Brisbane, Newcastle, Adelaide and Perth. The Tornados have been on tour since October and have had mixed luck so far. They are now in Southeast Asia and will play in Hong Kong this weekend. (For more information on the Americans turn to page 5.)

PAN HELLENIC wish to remind members considering to nominate for the club's management committee that all nominations must be in by this Saturday, December 10. The club's AGM will be held on December 17 at the Hellenic Club.

Despite vastly exaggerated reports, most INTERSTATE members of the Australian national team are not interested in coming to play in Sydney. One definitely staying put is Billy Vojtek, reportedly high on the wanted list of some big Sydney clubs.

LUIS GAUTO, who was placed on the transfer list by Prague, could join APIA who are now busily talent-scouting locally, interstate and overseas.

JIM KELLY's first task when he returns some time next week will be to call a meeting of South Coast players. After reviewing the players on United's books Kelly will decide on the new players needed to boost the team's playing strength next season. The bulk of this year's players is tipped to be re-

tained, but South Coast are certain to bolster the team with at least two experienced British professionals. They have already gained Ramage and Ackers from St. George-Budapest.

Pan Hellenic's coaching clinic for aspiring juniors at Wentworth Park outer ground on Sunday mornings was an immediate hit. Coach BILL STOEVELAAR and his assistant had 48 players to look after.

Sydney Metropolitan Association publicity officer DOUG McALLISTER found himself converted to soccer some years back, when his youngsters took to the game. After serving in Concord club and Western Suburbs Association, he moved into Sydney and State amateur affairs. Junior clubs can contact him on his home telephone, 73-5071.

Moves have been made to inaugurate a new association to provide for suburbs from the PENNANT HILLS district westward to Castle Hill and Dural and north through Hornsby. Whilst this might have some advantages, clubs have not considered the proposition, and local associations have not been approached.

JIM BAYUTTI, the newly-elected president of the NSW Federation, will be interviewed on Channel 9's sports show on Saturday morning about 10.45 a.m.

JOE MARSTON, due back in about two weeks from England, has spent various periods with Manchester United, Chelsea and Preston North End studying the latest coaching and administration methods. He also saw several League matches — from the VIP directors' boxes.

St. George-Budapest are likely to take STAN ACKERLEY as guest player to Noumea. Of the regular Saints, Cliss, Hillary and Haffey can't make the trip, during which recently returned prodigal son, Les Schauman, will make his debut.

CHANNEL 7 last Sunday showed an exclusive film of the Australian team's match against the Australian Services XI at Vung Tau last month. John Warren, the Australian skipper, was interviewed on both Channel 9 and Channel 7 last weekend.

ARCHIE BLUE will coach APIA's under-15 team next season. His main objective will be to develop talent for APIA's third grade side. Boys interested in trying out for the under-15 squad can ring 82-4391 after 6 p.m.

Hakoah will entertain their players at a CHRISTMAS PARTY on December 18 at the Milano Restaurant.

When ATTILA ABONYI left Sydney airport at 1 a.m., after the tremendous reception — he found the business-cards of no less than four Sydney clubs slipped in his blazer pocket.

At NORTH BANKS-TOWN's Annual General Meeting held last week, Len Bourne was re-elected president and Jack Parry again chosen as secretary for his fifth year of office. The two new vice-presidents are W. Prigg and J. McNeill and the treasurer is J. Bottell. Ron

# SYDNEY CLUB PATROL

South Coast United have placed MAX TOLSON and BARRY SALISBURY on transfer after both players failed to agree to terms offered by the club for the 1968 season. Tolson's fee is \$5,000, Salisbury's \$1,000. Tolson, one of Australia's greatest local talents, should be quickly spoken for. A potential Australian international, the burly halfback-cum-centre forward would be a tremendous asset to any Sydney club.

Duncan will remain team-manager and assistant-secretary.

Melita Eagles will play the first "friendly" of the 1968 season on January 14 against APIA. Guest of honor at the match will be Malta's Leader of the Opposition, DOM MINTOFF. Melita Eagles will give the distinguished visitor a big welcome function at their Marrickville club-rooms after the game.

served Concord most of his life, with the exception of his Army years, as did his late father, and most if not all of the family have played or given service to the club. Former club president, Lerrin Mutton, is now Patron of the club. He is an alderman of Concord Council of many years standing, and has had a term of office as Mayor.

Young Pan Hellenic goalkeeper TONY MAGLIS left for Europe last week to try his luck overseas.

A proposal to stage a compulsory under-18 competition in the ILLAWARRA DISTRICT Soccer Association in 1968 was rejected at the AGM held last week. All returning officials of the executive were re-elected, including Ross Kerr, president, Peter Banks, secretary, Bert Bampton, treasurer, and H. Vogel, assistant-secretary.

Hakoah are interested in Adelaide's brilliant under-23 Australian international, JOHN PERIN. They have started negotiations with his club, Juventus.

NSW amateur officials met the Australian Coaches Federation last Tuesday night to straighten out plans for 1968 PROMOTION of coaching.

SLAVIA-PRAGUE were held to a 2-2 draw by an Auckland XI in their first match in New Zealand last week. The Czechoslovakian tourists, however, have an excuse to offer: they were forced to play a mere seven and a half hours after an exhausting 16-hour flight from America.

Melita Eagles have placed their burly Australian-born forward, TOM MULQUEENEY, on transfer.

MARTIN ROYAL will soon present a film on Channel 2 on the Australian team's Saigon matches. The ABC received clips of nearly every Saigon match during the tournament, but preferred to wait for Martin to edit the film which he will narrate. Date of the screening will be announced soon.

The bulldozers are rolling at Jenner Road, West Pennant Hills, where HORNSBY NORTH END's homeground is rapidly taking shape. Bricklayers have started on the dressingrooms and, weather permitting, will have something to show early in the new year.

Australian coach JOE VLASITS lost his new raincoat at Sydney airport where the Australian team was given an official reception last week. Anybody who has found it — a brown, trenchcoat-style garment — is asked to telephone him on 644-2980.

The Hungarian FA has recommended to Australia SANDOR KAPOCSI, until recently national coach of the United Arab Republic.

RAY RICHARDS is almost certain to leave Brisbane and join Sydney Hakoah soon.

CHARLIE AGIUS, one of Melita Eagles' most respected and admired committee members and assistant manager of last year's first team, leaves on December 18 for a Maltese holiday.

## MASCOT PHOTOS

SOCCER WORLD cameraman Tim Pockley took a large selection of pictures at Sydney airport when the Australian team recently returned from Asia.

People who figure in these photos include:

T. McColl; K. D'Arcy; J. Vlasits (several); A. Abonyi; S. Ackersley; J. Warren (several); Sir William Walkley; R. Richards; J. Barclay (several); J. Connell; R. Baartz, plus the pictures published in last week's and this week's issues. Copies (8" x 10") at \$1 each may be ordered from Tim Pockley, 39 Grove St., Birchgrove, NSW.

Jim's son PAUL BAYUTTI last week starred for his Waverley College team — in cricket. Waverley played a visiting New Zealand high-school team — and won hands down.

Auburn (formerly Cumberland United) have placed eight players on TRANSFER at their own request. They are, with price tags bracketed: Joe Keenan (\$1,500), John Keddle (\$5,000), Dave Goldie (\$800), Warren Addison (\$600), John Charlton (\$400), Jim Fernie (\$1,000), Russell Haggitt (\$400), John Penfold (\$400). Goldie is almost certain to join Melita Eagles and Keddle is reported to be negotiating with APIA.

At the NSW Federation of Referees' Annual Picnic at Nielsen Park last Sunday TONY BOSKOVIC was presented with a magnificent trophy for becoming the first Australian referee to officiate overseas. Boskovic was deeply moved by his colleagues' splendid gesture and told SOCCER WORLD that the presentation came as a big surprise and that the trophy was the best he ever received.

Behind the scenes at Alan Hignett's wedding is a little story worth the telling. Pan Hellenic coach BILL VROLYKS and his wife boarded Alan when he arrived in Sydney. Bill's son Paul was best man at the wedding, and the reception, with the Pan Hellenic team members in attendance, was held at the Vrolyks' Maroubra home. All in all, a really fine gesture, and just the thing to settle a man when the folks are 13,000 miles away.

Treasurer of the Western Suburbs Soccer Club Ltd., GEORGE LIDDELL, is also president of the strong Concord Junior club. George has

## HELP LEGACY

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# Tony was made to feel like a real king

— By ALAN SPEERS —

"That rain, I've never seen anything like it; the mud was so thick the ball just would not run and it was a job to drag one foot after the other," says Tony Boskovic.

"Funny thing though, I couldn't help thinking to myself 'I wish so and so were here to see this.'"

"I was thinking of a certain soccer official who got quite upset, two or three years ago, when I refused to abandon a match at Gladesville because of rain.

"He even went to the extent of lodging an official protest, claiming that soccer was not possible in the conditions.

"I wish he could have seen the rain in Vietnam."

Boskovic returned last week with Australia's all-conquering Asian soccer tourists.

In Saigon, he became the first Australian referee to officiate in an international match in Asia.

His skilful refereeing in the Vietnam National Day Tournament, and elsewhere on tour, created a tremendous impression on Asian soccer officials.

## INVITED BACK

So much so that he has been invited to return next year for some of the big Asian soccer tournaments.

"Naturally, I was delighted and told the Asian officials I would be only too pleased to return, provided the Federation is agreeable," Boskovic said.

Not surprisingly, the likeable referee returned to Australia with vivid impressions of Asian soccer — and not just Vietnam's rainy season.

He was not over-impressed with the standard of refereeing, with one or two exceptions.

"The best Vietnamese referee was a colorful chap called Ngu-En Quang Toia," he said.

"He always wore white gloves and was very smart in appearance, but it was his handling of the game that impressed me most.

"Unlike some of his colleagues, he was very strict, but always scrupulously fair.

"The best referee I saw on tour was the chap who handled Australia's match with Indonesia in Djakarta, which we won 2-0.

"He was everywhere, and didn't miss a thing," Boskovic said.

Boskovic had some interesting stories to tell of the tour.

"In Saigon, the referees were treated like kings," he said, "each referee shared a car with the manager of his national team.

## VIP TREATMENT

"The car drivers were on call 24 hours a day — quite a change from the Australian set-up."

Had he learnt anything from officiating in different countries, before different crowds?

"It's true that you never stop learning, and I think I saw a couple of tricks which were new to me," he said.

"All told, I refereed four matches and acted as linesman in six others.

"The first match I refereed, between South Korea and Hong Kong, was very clean after I warned one of the players early in the game.

"After that, whenever I was in the middle, the players seemed careful not to do anything to incur a penalty.



Australia's top referee  
TONY BOSKOVIC

"Maybe my reputation preceded me," Boskovic said.

He was loud in his praise for Asian soccer supporters who, he said, were far more knowledgeable than their Australian counterparts.

"I have never experienced anything like the crowds in Djakarta — they applaud everything.

"I've never really been bothered by the reaction of any soccer crowd, be it good or bad.

"But I found myself enjoying the applause of the fans so much that I think I tried even harder to be correct in my decisions.

"Australia won 3-1, but the fact that the local side were behind didn't seem to have any effect on their supporters.

"I think this facet of soccer in Asia might hold the key to why we don't

produce as many good referees in Australia as we should.

"How can you improve when no matter what you do you can never satisfy the whims of the crowd.

"Too many of our supporters can see only one color on the field."

Boskovic was also taken by Djakarta's Bung Karno stadium which holds 100,000, all under cover.

"It's as good as Wembley," he said.

"The stadium in Singapore is also superior to anything we have here. The surface is like a billiard table," he added.

# Tour's press cover wasn't that good

Permit me to express surprise at your editorial (SW 17/11/1967) praising the publicity given to Australia's tour of South Vietnam.

Admittedly it was slightly more than that devoted to an average Sydney club match.

However, it was still very inadequate for a series of internationals, particularly involving Australia's prestige and in the light of their tremendous success.

The Vietnam tournament was perhaps best publicised by the daily papers (not taking into account "Soccer World's" excellent and exceptional coverage) in which, unusually, "The Sun" devoted the most space.

However, the comparatively insignificant "Kangaroo" tour received much more publicity. This is rather disturbing as the results of their matches put to shame Australian sport; in fact, that sport itself puts Australia to shame.

Running a close second would be the radio coverage of the matches. Here again the hypocrisy of the sporting executives of the commercial stations could be subtly noticed.

The attempt to dampen our soccer successes by announcing before nearly every result all sorts of trivia (as distinct from news) about the Rugby League team was in bad taste.

As for the ABC, did we hear any direct broadcasts, as is the case of "test" cricket?

The least said about TV the better. Their coverage was virtually non-existent, especially on the commercial channels.

But the ABC should be different, as it is supported by public funds. Perhaps a good spanking on the backside would spur them to action and force the ABC to cater for the sporting public in general instead of the personal whims of some rugby fanatics in charge.

G. Christopherson,  
Wellington St.,  
Auburn.

## READERS' LETTERS

### Platypi?

I have read with sheer horror that one afternoon newspaper columnist is searching for a name for our Australian soccer team.

He wants to find one to match the inane "Kangaroo" and "Wallaby" tags.

Well, here is one suggestion: Australia. I reckon you couldn't find a better, more dignified and apt name than the one we have got.

I personally doubt very much if any Asian countries would take to us more kindly if we called out team Emus, Koalas or Platypi (rhymes with bloody pie).

This kind of nonsense is peculiar to Australian rugby and I see no reason at all to copy such idiocies.

Surely that columnist could find something slightly more intelligent to write about; he should leave zoology alone.

This type of phoney gimmickry is more suitable for tag-wrestling and the roller game than for soccer where for ages Brazil has been Brazil, England has been England, and no idle, wandering mind has ever suggested that on international tours they be called anything else — except, again, in the world of rugby where with typical grammar-school mentality the British insist on being called "Lions."

Tommy Dobinson,  
Riverwood.

### Great tandem

I want to congratulate "Soccer World" for providing soccer fans with such a wonderful coverage of the Australian team's Asian tour.

I've never missed a single issue since 1960, but never have I enjoyed my "green paper" more than these past few weeks.

My thanks, too, to the ABC; those wonderful friends of soccer, for allowing Martin Royal — Australia's top broadcaster — to report for you.

# Amateurs to hold important AGM

— by David T. F. Childs, State Secretary —

The NSW Amateur Soccer Football Association will hold its 1967 annual meeting at the Sydney Chevron Hotel on Saturday.

Normally, this would go unnoticed by the general soccer follower and in many cases the administrators too.

However, this year there are some very good reasons why there will be the largest attendance ever witnessed at such a meeting and perhaps readers of "Soccer World" would care to be informed of the significance of the State's amateur organisation.

The NSWASFA controls amateur soccer in the whole of NSW.

Members are affiliated in all major townships of the State and there are few areas that are not covered in some way by the Association.

Amateur players number 92,944 in NSW and this is two-thirds of the Australian amateur soccer population.

Split into five branches, the organisation is larger than any other sporting body in Australia.

This in itself is no mean record and lends one to the belief that soccer in Australia is well and truly cemented.

As well as providing an organisation for all of the code's members, it also provides a foundation for the Australian Soccer Federation and its Federated Associations the opportunity of common organisation and administration within the State.

The time is rapidly upon the NSWASFA when serious consideration will have to be given in requesting the Australian Federation and its members for the full co-ordination of amateur football in Australia.

This would enable the ASF to call upon any such player, club and association for assistance on a nationwide basis and so bring about the much talked about soccer unity.

There can be no doubt that the usefulness of the NSWASFA is now more evident than ever before and as the continual growth of amateur soccer is noted it needs the assistance of the ASF to help control it.

As well as the member associations in the metropolitan areas, strong representation has been evident from the South Coast and Western region of the State.

The future looks promising in the extreme, and as long as the present growth at a playing, as well as at an administrative level is maintained, amateur football in New South Wales is assured of the keenest considerations in regard to the control of soccer.

## Assistance promised

With the new-look Federation of Soccer Clubs and the promised assistance at all levels, it could well be that 1968 will be another successful season.

In the past, amateur soccer has gone it alone on all points, if the obvious unity is a success in the new year, then we, as an amateur body, should see a rapid rise in playing standards and at the same time continue in bringing about a common policy for all areas of the State.

It is hoped that by the time of the annual meeting the Australian Federation of Soccer Coaches will have met the State executive and a complete, uniformed policy will be instigated throughout the State.

If the referees' problem can also be overcome, amateur soccer in NSW can look to the 1968 season as the best on record.

One of the most interesting considerations on the agenda of the annual meeting is the 1968 under-16 tour of New Zealand.

This tour was to have been made in 1967.

However, due to lack of finance, this had to be postponed.

The State is now looking for a sponsor for the tour.

# Yardley sought by many glamor clubs

George Yardley, the former St. George-Budapest striker, is now the toast of English Third Division club Tranmere Rovers.

And the big question is: how long will Tranmere be able to hang on to him?

In recent weeks, Yardley's ability and skill have spread far and wide in England.

Several big clubs are interested in him; Wolverhampton, Leeds, Manchester City, Stoke, Bolton Wanderers and — yes, even Liverpool have their scouts keeping Yardley under permanent surveillance.

Averaging a goal a match, Yardley is one of the top scorers in the English League, which has 92 clubs in Four Divisions.

Tranmere don't want to

sell; after all, it is Yardley who has mainly boosted attendances at the club's Prenton Park ground, following a decline after the departure of another ace scorer, Roy McFarland.

But if the big cash offers start pouring in, little Tranmere won't be able to hold out much longer.

So the chances are that pretty soon Yardley may end up with one of the glamor clubs of England — in First Division.

And just think that during his two years in Australia he was not even considered for any representative team . . .



# WE HELPED STEER OUR SOCCER TO ASIAN WATERS

Asia, all of a sudden, has stopped being a dirty word in Australian soccer. After years of apathy through ignorance and conceit, Australian soccer officials are fast becoming Asia-minded.

No doubt, the recent highly successful tour by the Australian team did the trick.

However, without undue modesty, SOCCER WORLD can and does take a fair share of the credit for this awakening.

Over the years, when officialdom still gazed lovingly towards Britain or Europe, this newspaper was the first in Australia to consistently focus attention on Asia.

We are pleased that our focusing was right; even more pleased that finally Australian soccer is searching for its place under the hot Asian sun.

These were some of our comments on the subject, only going back to 1960.

## Close ties urged

Paul Dean, in an interview with Vivian Chalwin, wrote:

"Closer ties with Asian countries are urged by Viv Chalwin, prominent Sydney businessman and sporting administrator.

"Last year he paid a visit to Korea and Japan. They all seem to be tremendously keen to play against Australian teams," he said.

"Chalwin added that Australian soccer administrators should now realise that close ties with Asian countries would benefit our soccer."

(February 17, 1960).

Denis Adrigan reported on a series of suggestions put forward by APIA; these included:

"The ASFA (ASF's predecessor, Ed.) to set up and develop a national coaching scheme.

"Two full-time functionaries to be appointed, one of them a secretary.

"The ASFA affiliate with the Asian Soccer Confederation."

(May 6, 1960).

Just as a matter of added interest: the Federation's management committee endorsed all three suggestions.

But so far none of them has been fully carried out . . .

Lou Gautier also urged a move in Asia's direction.

"There should be closer relations between Australian and Asian soccer.

"Matches should be played between leading

Asian countries and ourselves on either a Cup or friendly basis.

"Asian teams should be invited to tour here and our teams could reciprocate these visits.

"Australia would be well advised to join the Asian Soccer Confederation . . ." (September 1, 1961).

Paul Barclay, in a brief essay, wrote:

"In order to test our strength, it could be possible to send a team to our Asian neighbors.

"Probably Indonesia, Singapore, Malaya, Thailand and other countries in this part of the world would be willing to exchange visits with us.

"Geographically, even if not racially, this is an Asian country and perhaps we could enter a team at the Asian Games."

(October 15, 1961).

## Asian Confederation

An excerpt from our editorial referring to the 1964 FIFA Congress in Tokyo:

"Another issue of importance is the possibility of Australia joining the Asian Confederation, a branch of FIFA.

"Such a move would undoubtedly open new vistas for Australian soccer and would help us to build up a regular and healthy contact with our Asian neighbors."

(October 2, 1964).

On our role in the world of soccer, we said:

"Asian countries have now accepted Australia as an 'Asian' nation as far as soccer is concerned.

"The Asian nations feel that they would gain plenty in according Australia membership, such as tours to this country — and more important, a Western spokesman at FIFA congresses.

"Australia, naturally, would benefit even more as membership in the Asian Confederation would open exciting new vistas to Australian soccer.

"Australia, not being isolated any longer, could easily arrange tours to Asian countries and enter the many Asian tournaments staged yearly by the Asian Confederation such as the Asian Championship, Youth Tournament, Merdeka Games in Malaysia, South China Games, etc." (October 2, 1964).

## Annual tours

Part of another editorial before the departure of our World Cup team:

"Let us hope that this historic visit by our soccer team to Southeast Asian countries will open a new era in the sporting relations between Australia and her neighbors.

"Living as we do, in this part of the globe, surrounded by fast developing Asian nations, it is not immaterial whether our contacts with them are good, bad — or non-existent, as in the past.

"Sport is a wonderful medium to bring different races and nations together, to pave the way for close co-operation in economic, scientific and other fields." (November 19, 1965).

On his return from Asia with the team, Lou Gautier had this to say:

"If the recently ended tour of Southeast Asia has proved anything at all — and I think it has proved many things — then it's the fact that for the time being at least our place is in Asian soccer.

"We are considered part and parcel of the region's soccer life by others — and it's time we did so ourselves.

"Our vocation most definitely lies in the Asian Continent and this tour will, I hope, revolutionise our soccer future.

"As from next year it is imperative that the Australian national team undertake an annual tour of Asia at the end of the Australian season.

"We must play in the annual Merdeka Tournament in Malaysia, the Asian Championships (senior and junior) and nurture our budding international standing in the Asian melting pot before we are ready to tackle the 'big guns' of Europe and South America."

(December 17, 1965).

## Good neighbors

Again Gautier, before going to cover the Asian Games in Bangkok for SOCCER WORLD:

"Australia will be the poorer for not taking part in Asia's greatest football tournament — the Asian Games.

"We, at SOCCER WORLD, firmly believe that Australia's place is in Asian soccer.

"This is the reason why I'm going to Bangkok.

"While I'm prepared to concede that the creation of the Oceanic Confederation may eventually prove of some benefit to Australian soccer, I strongly believe Australia should have whole-heartedly thrown

its lot in with Asia and joined the Asian Confederation instead.

"As a member of the Asian Confederation, Australia would have derived far greater benefits.

"We would have gained incomparable international experience as the Asian Games, Merdeka Tournament and Asian Youth Championship would have been open to our teams.

"As a full Asian member, Australian soccer would have played a big part in cementing the bonds of friendship the Australian Government seeks with our Asian neighbors.

"As I said, I leave with mixed feelings.

"Thrilled at the prospect of a fortnight of exciting, international football in Bangkok's new, ultra-modern Stadium.

"But also sad, even angry, that Australia won't be there."

(December 2, 1966).

How about the Merdeka? These are parts of Jim Bayutti's tour report we published:

"It is quite clear that the Merdeka Cup is a must for Australia to participate.

"This is the recommendation I make to the Executive of the ASF and ask that they should seriously consider entering these Asian competitions.

"If we won our fixtures it would do much to improve the image of Australian soccer and also help to publicise Australia in the Asian zone.

"We should indeed try to eliminate from our clubs, State and National body the wrong approach towards the formation of a national team and should concentrate on our future in Asia which will also help to honor Australia in the same way other sports have done in the last decade." (March 11, 1966).

## Merdeka Tournament

We took up the war-cry and commented thus on the 1966 Merdeka:

"Australia's absence from Asia's greatest soccer carnival is regrettable.

"The tournament would have been a great experience for our soccer which so badly needs international competition on a truly national level.

"A well prepared Australian team would have competed on equal terms against countries like Nationalist China, South Korea, Burma and Japan and we would have had a great opportunity of chalking up prestige-laden successes over some of Asia's best teams.

"Despite the high cost of sending a team to the Merdeka Tournament without assistance, the Australian Federation should seriously consider entering the 1967 tournament at its own expense and perhaps ask for a share of gate-takings to recoup some of the expenditure."

(July 1, 1966).

Earlier this year we were still hoping that Australia will participate in the Merdeka.

However, this was decided against — and Western Australia finally went alone, achieving considerable results.

"The Merdeka Tournament must be regarded as a matter of national importance, taking precedence over the clubs' local interest.

"To decline Malaysia's invitation again — the first ever extended to a non-Asian country — just because clubs place their interests above Australia's, could cause irreparable damage to our budding prestige in Asia.

"Australia's soccer future lies in Asia and the sooner the clubs adopt the same line of thinking, the better for all concerned."

(February 11, 1967).

## Saigon mission

Finally, under the heading "Saigon mission may start a new Asian policy," our editorial comment was:

"We take this opportunity of expressing yet another ardent wish — that of the ASF to completely reshape our Asian policy.

"The age of empty words and promises should be over — let some action follow.

"Let us finally seek more permanent and more regular ties with Asian countries and the best way of starting off is to nominate NOW for the 1968 Merdeka Tournament.

"Only a selfish attitude by States and, within them, the clubs, can stop the ASF from widening its Asian horizon.

"Let's hope this journey will help towards that aim."

(October 27, 1967).

Almost two years ago, we suggested a special tournament:

"Although European clubs may be a better draw-card, most Federation officials would prefer to stage a tournament for Asian national teams, modelled on the Merdeka Cup which is held every August in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

"Countries like South Korea, South Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, Cambodia, India, Malaysia, Hong Kong and Taiwan could be invited at no cost to them.

"The ASF would pay the fares and give each visiting player a daily allowance for 'pocket money' and retain the entire gate receipts.

"This is how the Merdeka and New York tournaments are conducted, but in Australia sponsors could be found to support the scheme.

"The Australian Government too, might be induced to offer financial assistance as a competition for Asian teams would put Australia in good stead with Asia.

"Since Australia's soccer future lies in Asia, such a tournament would further integrate us in Asia's soccer sphere as well as offer the Australian team an excellent chance of winning the series and establishing themselves as one of the region's top soccer powers.

"These plans may be ambitious, but they certainly have merit."

(April 29, 1966).

While we are at it, let's recall that in the general and quite unfounded wave of optimism, we sounded caution before our Cambodian venture:

"Whichever way one looks at the coming matches in Cambodia, Australia must rate as the underdogs and are certainly not 'home and hosed' as some people would like to believe."

(May 7, 1965).

## Invite Asian teams

Soon after, under the heading "Australia's tour policy must be given a complete and urgent shake-up," we steered interest towards Asia:

"Exercise better judgment in the selection of teams invited.

"Obviously the Evertons and Chelseas are well above our standards — so much so that these clashes are pure exhibitions, not contests.

"If we compromised with our ambitions and invited somewhat weaker teams from Asia, these international tours would be much livelier affairs than they are now."

(May 21, 1965).

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# FIFA boss speaks his mind on current problems

In this interview with Sir Stanley Rous, published in France's "Football Magazine," the FIFA president speaks candidly about the many problems facing soccer.

His frank comments and views make fascinating reading and may give readers an insight on the personality of the leader of the world's greatest, most diversified sporting organization.

**Question:** We know how anxious you are to propagate soccer all over the world. Have you any suggestions how the game's development in under-developed areas could be sped up?

**Answer:** We discussed this vital problem at the last meeting of the International Board. Personally, I feel that one of the best and simplest ways would be to produce cheaper soccer equipment, particularly balls. We examined many types of rubber balls which retain the regulation size and weight after tear and wear. These balls don't have to be inflated, thus saving the additional purchase of a pump. They also cost half the price of normal leather balls.

The high cost of equipment is retarding the game's growth in many areas. The problem is so acute that the International Board may soon legalise the use of rubber balls or permit local associations to set their own standards, depending on the means at their disposal.

## Overworked

**Q:** There seems to be a lack of communication between FIFA, the International Board, and certain regions of the world?

**A:** I know. This is the reason why, since I became FIFA's president, we divided the world in six sections. The idea was to develop closer contacts, particularly with Africa and Asia, by setting up their own confederations with fulltime officials to pass on FIFA's directives to associations in their area.

Our headquarters in FIFA cannot handle all world-wide matters. Our Zurich office is already overworked as everything has to be translated in five languages (French, English, Russian, Spanish and Italian). German, surprisingly, is not one of FIFA's official languages though our headquarters are in the heart of German-speaking Switzerland. This is an added problem with our local clerical staff.

You must realise that when FIFA adopts a new ruling, or makes any amendments, it may take up to three years for the details to reach far-away member countries. When we introduced the referee's sign for indirect free-kicks, it took countries like Zambia, Basutoland and Tanzania two years to catch up with the rest of the world.

**Q:** Having yourself been a referee, are you worried about the lack of uniform interpretation of the rules of soccer?

**A:** This problem has pre-occupied FIFA for years. But first we have to be satisfied it's the referees, and not the players and coaches, who lack uniformity.

In every big international tournament I've witnessed — World Cup, Pan American Games, Asian Games and Olympic Games, among many others — I hardly ever noticed any variation in the referees' application of the rules. But I did see a great many variations in the tactics adopted by the players!

Of course, some referees are stricter than others. But, let me repeat, players and coaches are nearly always far guiltier of disregarding the rules.

## Reforms

**Q:** Do you receive many suggestions for reforms and alterations to the rules of the game?

**A:** Quite a few. But reform these days seems to be a sign of the times, and everybody is brimming with ideas. Not only in soccer, may I add!

**Q:** Are you opposed to reforms?

**A:** I have never been opposed to change, providing the suggestions have proved themselves and were experimented beforehand. Take the frequent suggestions that the goalposts should be widened. I can't see how more goals will be scored if this is implemented. All that teams would have to do to combat this would be to station a defender on the goalline to help the keeper. It certainly wouldn't make the game more offensive. On the contrary, I am convinced it would only intensify the defensive aspect of soccer since you would have a wider goal area to protect.

## New law?

**Q:** Are there any other experiments which may appeal to you?

**A:** Yes. Personally I would like to abolish the defensive "wall" in front of the goalkeeper when a free-kick is taken near the goalmouth. This would put an end to a lot of controversy. I suggest there should be no off-side on any free-kick, just as off-sides have been eliminated from corner kicks and throw-ins.

If the off-side no longer applied for free-kicks, players would soon realise the futility of forming a "wall" which would no longer have any defensive value since opposing forwards would be allowed to position themselves behind it.

In England we had a typical example of the situation the present ruling can lead to.

During last season's Leeds v. Chelsea Cup semi-final, Chelsea were awarded a free-kick on the 18-yard

line. Leeds players immediately formed a "wall." A Chelsea forward shot unsuccessfully at goal, but the referee made him retake the kick, claiming, rightly, that the Leeds players hadn't gone back sufficiently. When the kick was retaken, with the Leeds "wall" at the prescribed distance this time, Chelsea scored the only goal of the match, and reached the final.

## Gimmicks

**Q:** Your opinion of the US Professional League's innovation of bonus points for goals?

**A:** Strikes me like a publicity stunt. What soccer needs more than gimmicks is good football and sportsmanship. There is no need for any great revolution.

Soccer is a simple game. Let's not complicate it. We must never allow soccer to become like basketball, volleyball or handball where points are piled on with boring frequency. There is so much scoring in basketball that the spectators' eyes are continually glued to the baskets, leaving little or no time for observing the tactics employed on the court.

**Q:** But don't you agree that it's unfair that a magnificent, attacking 3-3 draw, for instance, should be worth the same number of points as a grim, deliberate 0-0?

**A:** I agree spectators want to see many goals. However, don't forget that it's the season's overall average results that count. The invention of the goal-average by the English League some 100 years ago took care of that and ensured that the team which scored the most goals throughout the season still comes out on top in the event of a tie.

**Q:** Do you think that the team captain should be given more power on the field?

**A:** He is invested with enough authority as it is. It's up to him to assert his qualities of leadership. When I was a referee, the two skippers used to shout to their players "Play with the ref." In other words, they were urging their team-mates to respect my decisions.

In England, at least, you rarely hear this exhortation on the field nowadays.

The role of the captain depends on his attitude. He must decide whether he's prepared to co-operate with the referee or whether he will only abide by the instructions he receives from his coach. It's all a question of attitudes. The captain either decides to "play the game" — as he and his team-mates know they should — or blindly follows off-the-field pressure.

## "Toughies"

**Q:** What is your greatest wish?

**A:** What I want more than anything is a return to the sporting spirit which existed in the past.

My attention is often drawn to pre-war players reputed to have been "toughies." Tough they certainly were, but always fair and within the law, so to speak.

Players in those bygone days respected the referee, something which has gone out of the game today. As a former referee, myself, I feel very strongly on this point, and I am convinced that today's lack of obedience and respect for referees is responsible for much of the unruliness prevailing on and off the field.

# U.S. soccer team is really "historic"

The "historic" 46-game world tour by the American Dallas Tornados (so described in press releases) is perhaps historic in more senses than one.

This is the first time a fully professional American team is globetrotting across three continents.

What really is amazing is that with the exception of the team's solitary American member, none of the other 15 players have even been to Dallas — or even the USA.

Recruited from six countries, the players gathered together in Lisbon earlier this year.

There they were signed by Texas millionaire and club "owner" Lamar Hunt and handed over to the

coach, Yugoslav-born Bob Kap.

After a few training stints, the team got outfitted in Inter-Milan's colors (blue and black stripes, black shorts) and sent on their merry way to represent Dallas, whose sole claim to fame so far has been the tragic murder of President Kennedy.

Now the Tornados are somewhere in Asia and by January 10 or so will blow in to Australia.

Their first match is scheduled for January 10 in Brisbane from where they will go to Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide.

And when their tour is over, the players will finally get a chance to return to their "home-town," Dallas.

# CRITIC SLAMS SCOTTISH IDOLS

Scottish players are the most overrated exhibitionists in English football . . .

. . . that is my answer to the mixed-up motley who either want to put them on pedestals of perfection or banish them as the "bad boys" of soccer.

If that seems harsh, it is an issue created by the Scots themselves in an age when demonstrative gimmicks, both physical and visual, are so often confused with ability and personality.

It may also explain Scotland's repeated international failures alongside their dominance of the soccer pops, pay, parades, transfer deals, and disciplinary courts.

Ever since professionalism hit the English soccer scene, Scots have been an essential part of it, delighting us with their canny interpretations of the craft and their lively personalities.

Englishmen — not Scots, mark you — were their idolisers, and football revelled in the arts of such players as Alex James, Tommy Walker, Hughie Gallagher, Jimmy McMillan, the Wembley Wizards and all that.

But the scene has changed.

Scotland still produces its personalities — if that is the right word — but the temperaments are more volatile and the skills less reliable.

And although Scots everywhere boast what England owes to their influence, marching orders

seem to move in step with money madness.

In addition, the country that has produced a Glasgow Celtic side fit to conquer Europe, still seems incapable of doing anything approaching that on a national basis.

For many years Scotland has toyed with the idea of picking all international players from the clubs at home, leaving "Anglos" to stew in their highly profitable exile, in an effort to mould individual merit with the team spirit and pride you would expect of such a soccer-famous nation.

## PRIMA DONNAS

After their World Cup flop and international events since that disaster, relieved only by a victory over England "crocks," maybe they will think again along those lines.

Such as Denis Law, Ian Ure, Billy Bremner, Jimmy Baxter and Eddie McCreadie may be the cat's whiskers to their English worshippers.

But their international records are no more a qualification for an art gallery than their disciplinary sheets.

That at least provides food to wonder whether such highly-paid prima donnas are all they are cracked up to be . . . or just exhibitionists exposed by the higher ideals of international combat.

— ERIC COOPER in the London "Daily Express"

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## ROUND THE WORLD

### Sadler may play for England

David Sadler, Manchester United's centre-half, is expected to play for England against Russia this week. The 21-year-old Sadler, who toured Australia this year, is tipped to replace the injured Jackie Charlton. Sadler, a product of Kent College, has greatly impressed Alf Ramsey in recent matches.

### Docherty for Vienna?

Ocwirck, FK Austria's coach, seems certain to retain his position until the end of the season despite his present troubles with players, officials and supporters. Ocwirck, however, is said to have only saved his neck because of his friendship with the club's president, Hubert Walter. Next season it is rumored that Bela Guttmann may take over. There is also a possibility that Tommy Docherty may accept a fabulous contract to manage the famous Viennese club. As for Ocwirck, he is likely to move to a West German club in 1968-69.

### Ajax stars' boycott

Ajax Amsterdam's five internationals boycotted last week's international match between Holland and the USSR at Rotterdam. The players declined selection as a protest against the five-match suspension of their team-mate, Piet Keizer, who was suspended for being sent off against Yugoslavia three weeks ago. They claimed that since Keizer was sent off in an international match he should not have been suspended for club games.

### European Junior Championship

Next year's European Junior Championship will be played on the French Riviera between April 5 and 16. These are the groups. Group I: Scotland, Portugal, Switzerland, Belgium. Group II: Bulgaria or Turkey, England, USSR, Holland. Group III: Spain or West Germany, Italy, Czechoslovakia, Italy or Austria. Group IV: Hungary or Rumania, France, Greece, East Germany or Poland.

### Bulgaria's thunderous attack

The Bulgarians have done it again! They have topped their European Championship group, eliminating such giants as Portugal and Sweden. Like the French, the Bulgarians have a knack of almost always qualifying for the final stages of the big international competitions despite a mediocre record in friendly matches. When Bulgaria beat Portugal 1-0 in the deciding match of their group in Sofia last Sunday week their forward line included the country's leading five goal-scorers, who between them had totalled 51 goals in the current championship: Kotkov, Asparoukhov, Jekov, Mitkov and Dermendjiev.



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The Japanese Olympic team, which has qualified for next year's Mexico finals, played a 2-2 draw in Tokyo last Saturday with the touring First Division Soviet team, Central Army Sports Club (Rostov). The Russians were invited for a three-game series as part of Japan's preparation for Mexico. Japan have matches against the West German amateur team and Brazilian and Swedish club teams planned for 1968.

● Morocco and Ghana will play-off for Africa's berth in the 1968 Olympic Games finals early next year.

● Deportivo Cali have won the Colombian championship, seven points ahead of Millionarios Bogota.

● Ernest Pohl, Poland's former leading goalscorer, is now the assistant-coach of Gornik Zabrze.

● The Israeli FA will stage a tournament in Tel Aviv at Christmas. Rapid Vienna, Rapid Bucharest and Panathinaikos of Greece have been invited.

● Inter Milan have transferred Giordano Colausig to Brescia. Colausig only spent three months with Inter after being sold by AS Roma.

● The Yugoslav FA has suspended Radoslaw Becejaz for five months because he refused to play in the national team against Albania.

● Geoff Hurst, England's World Cup final hero, has just published a book called "The World Game."

● The reason for Helenio Herrera's surprise visit to Paris a fortnight ago has now been discovered. HH was paying a visit to the grave of his daughter who died from leukemia 18 years ago.

● Sarajevo, last year's Yugoslav champions, are currently equal last with OFK Belgrade, once a big name in Yugoslav soccer. After a three-year eclipse the country's "big three" — Dynamo Zagreb, Partizan Belgrade and Red Star — are again among the leaders and the 1967-68 winner is expected to come from this trio.

● Florian Albert polled 38 votes out of 40 in a journalists' poll to determine Hungary's "Player of the Year."

● Fernando Riera, the Chilean coach of Benfica and of the Portuguese national team, has resigned. Riera was accused of selecting too many Benfica players in the national team despite their mediocre recent form. Riera is likely to coach Sevilla of Spain.

● The Sporting Lisbon v. Fiorentina Fair Cities' Cup match has been postponed because of the disastrous Lisbon floods.

● Belgium's national team captain, Joseph Jurion, will retire at the end of the season to coach in Luxembourg.

● Welshman Mike England, the Tottenham stopper, underwent a knee operation and will be sidelined until January 15.

## SCOREBOARD

**EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS' CUP:** Braunschweig (West Germany) v. Rapid Vienna 2-0; Sparta Prague v. Anderlecht (Belgium) 3-2; Juventus (Italy) v. Rapid Bucharest (Rumania) 1-0; Real Madrid v. Hvidovre (Denmark) 4-1; Gornik Zabrze (Poland) v. Dynamo Kiev (USSR) 1-1; Manchester United v. Sarajevo (Yugoslavia) 2-1; St. Etienne (France) v. Benfica (Portugal) 1-0.

**EUROPEAN CUPWINNERS' CUP:** Lyon (France) v. Tottenham 1-0; Standard Liege (Belgium) v. Aberdeen (Scotland) 3-0; Cardiff City (Wales) v. NAC Breda (Holland) 4-1; Hamburger SV (West Germany) v. Wisla Krakow (Poland) 4-0; Torpedo Moscow v. Spartak Trnava (Czechoslovakia) 3-0 and 3-1; Valencia (Spain) v. Steaua Bucharest 3-0.

**FAIR CITIES' CUP:** Ferencvaros (Hungary) v. Liverpool 1-0; Partizan Belgrade v. Leeds United 1-2; Hibernians (Scotland) v. Napoli (Italy) 5-0.

**FRANCE:** Bordeaux v. Rouen 1-0; Valenciennes v. Rennes 2-1; Monaco v. Sochaux 1-0; Strasbourg v. Lille 2-0; Nantes v. Aix 5-1; Red Star v. Nice 1-1; Metz v. Sedan 1-5; Marseille v. Angers 3-1; Lens v. Lyon 1-0; St. Etienne v. Ajaccio 4-0.

**GREECE:** Vyzas v. Prodettiki 1-1; Herakles v. Veris 3-1; AEK v. Olympiakos Piraeus 4-1; Panathinaikos v. Ethnikos 0-0; Panserraikos v. Apollon 3-0; PAOK v. Olympiakos Cyprus 3-0; Egaleo v.

Aris 3-3; Paneftthinaikos v. Volou 0-0; Pierikos v. Panionios 3-1.

**HOLLAND:** GVVAV v. Sittardia 1-2; DWS v. MVV 0-0; Volendam v. Twente 1-1; Feyenoord v. PSV 4-2; DOS v. Xerxes 1-1; Telstar v. Sparta 1-3; Go Ahead v. NEC 3-1; ADO v. Ajax 1-0; Fortuna v. NAC 1-1.

**ITALY:** Fiorentina v. Inter Milan 1-1; Vicenza v. Juventus 0-2; Milan AC v. Atalanta 0-0; Napoli v. Mantova 0-0; AS Roma v. Cagliari 2-3; Spal v. Sampdoria 1-0; Torino v. Bologna 0-1; Varese v. Brescia 0-0.

**PORTUGAL:** Varzim v. Sporting Lisbon 1-2; Porto v. Braga 4-2; Guimaraes v. Academica 2-0; Barreirense v. Sanjoanense 0-1; Belenenses v. Leixoes 2-1; Setubal v. Tirsense 1-0.

**SPAIN:** Barcelona v. Ponferrada 4-0; Elche v. Real Madrid 0-0; Betis v. San Sebastian 4-1; Sabadell v. Sevilla 2-2; Cordoba v. Malaga 2-3; Valencia v. Zaragoza 3-1; Atletico Madrid v. Espanol 0-0.

**SWITZERLAND:** Basel v. Servette 1-0; Granges v. Grasshoppers 0-3; Lausanne v. Chaux-de-Fonds 3-2; Lugano v. Young Boys 2-1; Lucerne v. Sion 3-0; Young Fellows v. Bellinzona 1-1; FC Zurich v. Bienne 2-2.

**YUGOSLAVIA:** Red Star v. Rijeka 2-0; Hajduk v. Radnicki 4-1; Olimpija v. Sarajevo (postponed because of fog); Zeljeznicar v. Maribor 0-0; Velez v. OFK Belgrade 2-1; Vardar v. Partizan 1-0; Proleter v. Zagreb 3-3; Dinamo Zagreb v. Vojvodina 0-0.

### Mexican soccer thrives

Mexican soccer, once a minor sport, is booming. The Mexican FA controls 350,000 players — an increase of 120,000 on 10 years ago — 8,220 clubs and 19,218 referees. Mexico has 900 professional players spread over 52 clubs in three professional divisions. The average monthly wage for a full-time player is \$500.00 and the maximum bonus per match allowed is \$40.00. Since 1955, crowds at all professional matches have more than quadrupled and the 1970 World Cup is expected to push the game ahead even further.

### Top Danes for U.S.

Three of Denmark's top internationals — Erick Dyreborg, Finn Laudrup (who nearly joined Rapid Vienna last month) and Henning Boel — have been signed by the American club, Atlanta Chiefs. The Americans have also bought Malmo's Swedish international, Ingvar Svahn.

### Some Hungarian statistics

Some facts on the recently concluded Hungarian season you should know. Ferencvaros won the First Division, eight points ahead of Ujpest, with Gyor third. Komlo and Eger were relegated and Egyetertes and Szekesfehervar promoted — neither of whom ever played in Division I before. Dunai of Ujpest was the leading scorer with 36 goals, eight more than Albert, the runner-up. A record 2,700,000 spectators watched First Division matches. Seven-hundred and seventy-four goals were scored and 31 players sent off. The average age in First Division was a youthful 24 years, compared with 27 last season.

### Argentina seeks reconciliation

The Argentinian FA wants a reconciliation with England. They have offered to bury the hatchet and offered England a match in Buenos Aires in December 1968, followed by a return game at Wembley in May 1969. The Argentinians are willing to pay England \$50,000 for the match in Buenos Aires. The English FA is also reported to be anxious to re-establish good relations with Argentina and will examine their proposals before Christmas.

### "Poland's greatest triumph"

"Poland's greatest soccer triumph" is how the European experts summed up Gornik Zabrze's European Champions' Cup second round victory over Dynamo Kiev, first round conquerors of 1966-67 champions, Celtic Glasgow. The Poles knocked Kiev out when they beat them 2-1 in the Ukraine and played a 1-1 draw at home before 100,000 spectators at Chorzow. Gornik's success was engineered by their Hungarian coach, Geza Kalocsai, whose fluent 4-4-2 baffled the Russians in both matches. The Poles, individually, also appeared more intelligent and imaginative than their opponents, whose game is mainly based on strength and long through balls.

### Garrincha's testimonial

Brazil is planning a testimonial match for winger Garrincha early in the New Year. The organisers hope to invite the following players to the Maracana Stadium for a match against Brazil's 1958 and 1962 World Cup side: Iribar, Amancio, Gento, Suarez, Moore, Beckenbauer, Facchetti, Mazzola, Eusebio, Charlton, Law, Ball, Johnstone, Albert, Marzolini and Sivori.

● Jose Antonio Diaz Quevedo, who plays for Murcia in the Spanish Second Division, has been suspended for life for kicking a referee and breaking his leg.

● Drago Sekularac, the brilliant Yugoslav forward, now plays for Hajduk Split after two unsuccessful years in West Germany.

● Joao Havelange has resigned from the presidency of the Brazilian Sports Confederation (CBD). The new president is Silvio Pacheco.

## Czechoslovakia

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# TOP COACHES SITTING IDLE IN MELBOURNE

— From BOB LOW in Melbourne —

In recent years the majority of Melbourne's State League coaches have moved about from club to club almost at their own free will.

However, in the past couple of years, several new coaches arrived from overseas, a couple from interstate and one or two have jumped up from the Metro League to join the already overcrowded State League bandwagon.

The result: at least half a dozen coaches who have had State League experience are now sitting idle. Clubless coaches at present include:

● Mike De Bruyckere, a former first team regular with top Dutch side, Willem II and a full representative player for Holland on many occasions; originally came to Wilhelmina in 1957 and played for both Victoria and Australia. He beat a broken leg bogey twice to return to the playing scene and before succeeding Jim Adam

as coach of the Victorian teams which played Manchester United, had coaching spells with Wilhelmina, Melbourne, Lions and Juventus. His name has been freely mentioned in connection with the vacant coaching position at Croatia.

● Max Gereets, another Dutchman who originally came to Wilhelmina and then had a spell with Juventus before joining a Metropolitan League side.

● David McIntosh, a Scot who played with Stirling Albion before coming to Victoria in the 50s. Gave many years service at full-back to both Hakoah and Victoria. Until recently, McIntosh was coach of Sunshine City, the shock Metropolitan side of this season's Dockerty Cup who eliminated both Melbourne

and Alexander. He resigned a few weeks ago giving travelling difficulties as the reason. But it seems he is intent in getting a State League side.

● Ollie Norris, the former Bournemouth, Middlesbrough and Northampton Town forward, known as "Brickwall Norris" in English league soccer, was yet another ex-Wilhelmina player. He has also coached and played for Croatia and Hakoah and is one of the leading lights of the Victorian Coaches Federation.

● John Hemmerling, former Polish international both at soccer and ice-hockey, is the best known identity among Melbourne's soccer coaches. He has had two spells with Slavia and coached their superb side which won the Australia Cup in 1963 and held similar posts with Croatia, Polonia and Lions. Recently he was with aspiring First Division club St. Albans.

● Vic Janczyk, former Polish First Division player who has been outstanding for Polonia over the past five years as both a player and coach. For two seasons he was coach for the VSF and he is also a former Argus Medal winner. Recently resigned as coach of Polonia and is keen getting another State League club to coach. Janczyk was the longest-serving coach with the same club in the State League.

● Bill Curran, former South Melbourne Hellas and Croatia team manager who tried his hand as a coach with Slavia and was after a short time replaced by Paddy Sloan. A former State League referee, Bill has also been State selector and a member of the disciplinary committee. Unattached at present.

● Mario Buisdoni, former Juventus and Slavia centre-half, has also been on the sidelines since his spell as coach of Slavia in 1966.

The position of coaches with South Melbourne Hellas and George Cross seems to be in the melting pot.

Hellas coach is centre-forward Con Nestorides, but the club is reported

to be after Yugoslav coach Brosic at present in New Zealand.

The George Cross club have openly stated some time ago they are trying to get Steve Mokone, a colored coach who was with them two years ago.

Where will this place the man in possession, former player, Tony Vella?

Croatia have just signed leading Sydney coach Michael Kiss, a former Yugoslav expert from Zagreb.

## EDITORIAL "WALL" TO RETAIN PLAYERS?

Rumors have it that the Victorian Federation recently passed legislation barring the interstate transfer for one year of any of their players who has represented Australia.

It would be interesting to see whether the ASF has sanctioned this move — and on what human grounds?

With due respect to the Victorian legislators, this would be the greatest nonsense ever perpetrated by them.

Is this the only way they can keep some of their players?

Do they have to resort to the building of a "Berlin Wall" to prevent their citizens, like those of Iron Curtain countries, from a free choice of abode?

This type of legislation doesn't exist anywhere in the world; can you imagine a Birmingham player prevented for a year from moving to a London club just because he has played for England?

Of the same happening to a Brazilian in Recife, a Hungarian in Tatabanya or a German in Aschaffenburg?

Are they in Victoria rewarding their star players or punishing them? Is this an incentive for a young Victorian to strive for national honors in the future?

This newspaper has always been against such parochial restrictions and we will not change our attitude whether it involves Victoria, NSW or the Northern Territory.

Sure, Victorians have been "losing" some players (for large fees) to Sydney; but then again South Australians have been losing them to Victoria and West Australians to South Australia; did we hear any outcries, any loud protests?

This is the normal, selective process of soccer — as it is of all other facets of human life.

Anybody is at liberty to change it — if he can — but nobody should be permitted to legislate against it.

The Victorians can only have one genuine complaint: if their players have been approached without the permission of their clubs.

Should that be the case the Victorian clubs will have full redress and should get the full protection of the existing constitution.

## Juventus tackles Slavia at Norwood Oval

— From ALLAN CRISP —

South Australia's soccer year will end as it began — with a visit from a top flight Czechoslovakian side.

Sparta Prague defeated SA 8-2 on Tuesday, January 29.

Slavia Prague will play SA league champions Juventus at Norwood Oval on Saturday night.

The game will be historic because it will be the first time that a local club side has opposed a touring overseas team.

Juventus are preparing for their huge task by training three nights a week.

Newly appointed coach, Mario Danieli had only a week to prepare the team for the game against Melbourne Juventus.

He was convinced after that match that his players were not fit enough to play the style he wants.

The extra training time and the return of Australian international Tom McColl should ensure an improvement.

Slavia's brilliant ball play should attract a big crowd.

If they live up to their world-wide reputation, Juventus goalkeeper Charlie Horvath will be the busiest man afield.

In past seasons, Juventus have been hailed as a "big occasion" team.

This year their Australia Cup effort dented their reputation to a marked degree.

An honorable performance against their formidable opponents on Saturday night will restore their prestige.

## NSW EXECUTIVE GETS CRACKING

The newly-elected NSW five-man Executive has wasted no time setting the wheels of NSW's new-look administration in motion.

Most of the sub-committees have already been formed.

They are:  
Finance committee: Messrs Grimson, Bragg, Warner.

Grounds committee: Messrs D'Arcy, L. Brown, Virginia.

Fixtures committee: Messrs Grimson, Pappas, Warner, Cerdos.

Technical committee: Denes Adrigan has been appointed chairman. He will nominate six people, from which three will be appointed by the Executive to act as State selectors in 1968. Frank Parsons will manage the State team next year and Brian Emery will be its secretary.

City and Country Junior Development Committee: Messrs Parsons, Emery, Keith Gilmour, Childs, Stoevelaar, Craig.

Tom Grimson has been appointed treasurer of the NSW Federation.

NSW's delegates to the Australian Federation are Arthur George, Tom Grimson and Sam Fiszman. George and Grimson will be on the ASF Executive, Fiszman on the Council.

Les Bordacs of St. George-Budapest has been appointed provisional chairman of the First Division sub-committee and Max Garrett of Western Suburbs chairman of the Second Division sub-committee.

The committee which will deal with interstate relations will comprise of the entire NSW Executive.

The Management Committee has approved a tour by Papua-New Guinea, sponsored by the Sydney Second Division clubs.

The ASF willing, the visitors will meet a combined Sydney Second Division team some time in February or March.

## Ampol Cup

The Ampol Cup in Melbourne will begin on January 12 with a Juventus v. Hakoah and Melbourne v. Croatia double-header.

Following that, double-headers will be played each Friday at Olympic Park until the semifinals, on February 23 and March 1.

The final is set down for March 8.

## COMBINED TEAM AGAINST CZECHS

South Melbourne Hellas and Slavia have again joined forces to form a combined side which will oppose the touring Slavia-Prague at Olympic Park tomorrow night (Friday) with an 8 p.m. kick-off.

Hellas and Slavia teamed up together and very competently too, when they turned on a first-class performance to lose only 2-0 to another Czech touring side — Sparta Prague.

This should be a first-class attraction and a pre-Christmas treat for all

soccer fans in Melbourne. Given good weather, a big crowd may trek to Olympic Park mainly to see this famous Czech team who are at present on a world tour celebrating their 76th anniversary.

The combined team will be made up from eight Slavia players and six from South Melbourne Hellas.

The team is not likely to be chosen until the day of the match.

Here is the Hellas-Slavia squad: Schroif, Litopoulos, High, Bedford, Cook, Goodwin, Livingstone, Jurecki, Reid, Kokinos, Damaniakos, Pyrgolis, Rainey and a new centre-forward who is due to arrive for South Melbourne Hellas from Greece to replace Con Nestorides who has again returned to Greece.

The Hellas-Slavia squad has a fairly wide appeal as it includes five Greeks, five Scots, one Australian, one Pole and an Englishman with Schroif representing Czechoslovakia. B.L.

## BIG DROP

The Olympic Park Management Committee's decision to end the VSF control of Olympic Park for State League matches and grant the tenancy of the ground to three State League clubs, South Melbourne Hellas, Croatia and George Cross has been done to arrest declining attendances and re-establish the stadium as the number one soccer ground in Melbourne.

From 1962 until 1967, the overall attendances at Olympic Park for State League games has fallen by over 150,000.

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## DATE IN CANBERRA

Seacliff-Austria have received an invitation from the Canberra Concordia club to participate in a carnival at Easter.

The top German clubs in each State will be asked to compete.

Polonia players, Richard Hamence and Gene Mielnik will both reach their 100th game during the Ampol series.

Hamence will bring up his century in the first night game and Mielnik in the second match of the series.

Croatia have secured the transfer of goalkeeper Jim Hogan from WA Hellas.

Hogan will take over from former Australian and SA goalkeeper, Jim McCabe who has retired because of a recurrent shoulder injury. A.C.

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# NEW ZEALAND MAY PULL OUT OF 1970 WORLD CUP

— From COLIN H. CHIN in Wellington —

The New Zealand team that arrived back from Saigon came back with one of the best records ever recorded by a national soccer side since Australia were beaten in 1923.

In such illustrious company as Australia, South Korea and South Vietnam, the results were gratifying to most, and more successful than had been anticipated.

In all, three wins from five matches, all away in the heat of Saigon, Kuala Lumpur and Perth, certainly supports tour manager Jack Cowie's report that "our future lies in Asia."

The complete tour results were:—

- In Saigon:
- v. Australia 3-5
- v. Singapore 3-1
- v. South Vietnam 1-5
- In Kuala Lumpur:
- v. Malaysia 8-2
- In Perth:
- v. Western Australia 5-2
- Played: 5, won: 3, lost: 2.
- Goals: 20-15.

The tour results brought some sharp reactions from NZFA Promotions Director, Charlie Dempsey of Auckland.

He obviously had second thoughts about New Zealand's 1970 World Cup entry, the very subject that he had tabled at a NZFA Council meeting on behalf of the Auckland FA.

Dempsey said:

"The performances of New Zealand have left a lot to be desired.

"We must be more sincere, in our efforts to prepare players for international matches.

"Australia were gathered together 10 days before leaving for Saigon.

"New Zealand's players got together two days before departure and had one practice together.

"The Auckland v. Slavia match next week (December 2) will probably be used as a final guide to New Zealand entry in the preliminary World Cup rounds."

These views brought an immediate reaction from "THE PRESS" (Christchurch), under the headline:

"Soccer Moans Are Unrealistic."

Dempsey's views were labelled "hasty and ill-considered."

"What is the sense of entering the World Cup, if New Zealand expects to be beaten.

"Administrators should be realistic and remember that New Zealand soccer is crawling onto the international scene," the paper said.

Interesting comments and comparisons, when one recalls "Soccer World" remarks that New Zealand was some ten years behind Australia.

This was more or less reiterated in the "8 O'CLOCK" (Auckland) where former Chelsea captain, Ken Armstrong wrote:

"The complete professional approach as demonstrated by Australia in winning the Saigon tournament is the only answer to New Zealand's chances for the 1970 World Cup."

New Zealand finished officially fifth in Saigon, but after the 8-2 trouncing of Malaysia, one wonders whether it would have finished fourth had it been drawn in Group B.

Or were the post-Saigon successes due to fresher pastures and the lower temperatures of Kuala Lumpur and Perth?

Winning the trophy for "Best and Fairest Team" reflected good sportsmanship and secured an invitation to return to Saigon for 1968.

Team manager, Gordon Smith said that New Zealand could even receive an invitation to play in the Merdeka Tournament.

Smith, who is also Convenor of Selectors, singled out 18-year-old Brian Turner and Colin Latimour as the most improved players on the tour.

Smith added that he expected offers from Australia could be forthcoming for Turner.

## Transfer wrangle

Turner has played in Australia before, in 1964 as a schoolboy in the curtain-raiser for an Australia v. Everton match.

If any Australian clubs are thinking of obtaining the services of Turner, they would be well advised to beware of the NZFA attitude to players leaving the country to turn pro.

The NZFA astounded players and coaches alike when, on the return of New Zealand from Saigon, came the usual, post-tour shock announcements of transfers.

Tony Gowans, wing-half from Christchurch City, announced that he had an offer of a trial with the English Second Division side, Crystal Palace.

Gowans, who netted a goal against Western Australia on tour, announced simultaneously with club-mate Chris Martin, that the two were departing New Zealand with hopes of a professional contract after a three months' trial.

Martin was in Noumea with the New Zealand "B" side, and starred in City's Chatham Cup final display.

Gowans had approached Jack Cowie, tour manager and chairman of the NZFA, about a clearance.

He was warned that as "FIFA articles state, transfer fees are allowed for amateurs, so there could be a \$5,000 tag on your head."

Formal applications were then received from the players' solicitors at an NZFA executive meeting, after the players had returned home.

The NZFA merely reiterated what Jack Cowie had already stated personally, and that under FIFA regulations, Article 12:—

"Only a new Association is entitled to ask for a transfer from a former Association."

"When we receive a request from the Football Association the matter will be referred to us, which of course, has the right to impose any conditions we may desire before issuing a certificate," the letter added.

The NZFA appear to be taking advantage of the new FIFA regulations.

In the past they allowed national goalkeeper, Peter Whiting (Miramar Rangers) to join Charlton Athletic, the London Second Division club, granting him a clearance before departure.

Another Kiwi abroad is Ian Ormond, seeking a trial with a Scottish club.

Gowans left for Crystal Palace on November 29, while Martin followed two days later.

Despite the fact that New Zealand met Australia for the 22nd time — and on foreign soil — the "Ashes" appear to have lost themselves in the archives of Australian soccer giants of the past.

We quote from the late Jock Houston's ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL IN NEW ZEALAND:

"The ANZAC ashes came into being in 1923 when New Zealand toured Australia.

"The Ashes are those of the cigars smoked by George Campbell, captain of the New Zealand side, and Alec Gibb, captain of the Australian team, at two banquets held during the tour.

"The collection of the ashes were the happy thought of Harry G. Meyer, manager of the New Zealand team, who secured a relic of Anzac ideally suited to such a purpose.

"The case was presented to W. Fisher, secretary of the Queensland Football Association, on his leaving with the Australian Imperial Forces for Gallipoli and was in his possession at the landing.

"When the memento of that historic event was presented to Mr. Meyer, he conceived the idea of making a container for some actual ashes to be mounted and preserved in permanent form as a trophy to be competed for in test matches between New Zealand and Australia.

"After the original case had been restored to new condition, it was fitted in a beautiful casket of Australian and New Zealand timbers made by a Mr. J.S. Koan, a New Zealand artist at this class of work.

"The base of the casket and the lid are of New Zealand honeysuckle, the body of Australian maple whilst the top of the lid is surmounted by a silver football and the front panel bears a silver kangaroo in the centre with a silver fern leaf on each side and the letters NZ in blue enamel."

Well, Australia, need we say more?

Few present-day Kiwis are aware of its existence.

Does anybody know where it is at the moment?

Press reports have not mentioned the "Ashes" since 1936.

## INTERNATIONAL ROUND-UP

● Arsenal of London will soon build a central heating system for all its stands.

● Following a recent riot at their ground, Millwall have upped the children's admission price from 2s to 3s (25c to 37c), in a bid to discourage the hooligan elements.

● West Ham United may not be any more in the class of Liverpool and Manchester United but in one respect they are above all: in five seasons none of their players were sent off by a referee.

● The ground of Livorno, the Second Division Italian club, has been suspended for six matches as a result of violent incidents when spectators invaded the field and attacked the referee in a match against Monza.

● Juan Urruzmendi, Nacional Montevideo's right winger, has been offered \$20,000 to play in the United States.

● Matt Busby revealed last week that each Manchester United player would be paid a \$4,500 bonus if they won the European Cup.

● Which is the largest club ground in England? Liverpool's, Manchester's Old Trafford, the Arsenal ground or perhaps Tottenham's? Wrong on all counts. The greatest capacity is Charlton Athletic's ground in London, with room for 73,000. And the smallest? Fourth Division Barrow's, with 16,500.

## SNEAK 1968 PREVIEW

## SECOND DIVISION WILL BE VERY HARD TO WIN

— By CHARLES SPITERI —

In the past few weeks, we presented in reasonable detail the composition of our Second Division clubs from which once a year, one team gains promotion to the First Division ranks — permanently or temporarily.

Over the years, some have season with the same play-withstood the pressure and expense of big-time soccer, while others have failed more than once to stay in the limelight of the higher ranks.

The major contributing factor in the failure of most clubs was the inability to stir enough excitement within the district and attract reasonable crowds to their matches.

With the advent of licensed clubs which are increasing every year, the whole structure of several clubs is changing, as their financial background becomes more stable and less dependent on gate takings.

Financial stability at the top, coupled with the ever-increasing interest and close association with the juniors, should boost both the standard and the popularity of the game and my prediction is that the 1968 season may be the toughest ever for the Second Division with better football and bigger crowds.

Here are the clubs who will compete for the right to play First Division in 1969:

● AUBURN (formerly Cumberland United) relegated from First Division this season, are bound to lose some of their key players like Keddie, Hopkins, Goldie, etc., but despite this will remain strong and still a side to contend with.

From their third graders, who won the championship this season, Auburn have plenty of young talent which could be blended with experienced players to form a worthy combination, capable of gaining prompt promotion.

● GRANVILLE-PARRAMATTA will make another try for the premiership in 1968, but how strong that will be depends on how many of last year's team is retained.

Two of the side's best forwards, Irish international O'Neill, and Gallaher, will go back to Auburn (they were on loan to Granville last year) and they are most likely to be replaced by local youth who may lack experience and there may also be some changes in the defence.

● BANKSTOWN are a definite promotion prospect as this side has the players and organisation to tackle the strongest in the Division.

With a season's experience behind them, all last year's youths will appear again for Bankstown which, with the constant coaching of Nelson Stiffle, must be a much improved side.

Bankstown can draw on their unlimited pool of talented youngsters to substitute for injuries and this should prove a great asset to keep within striking distance of the top rung of the ladder.

● SUTHERLAND SHIRE, one of the most stable and consistent teams during the past season, are sure to make a king-size effort to win the premiership next year.

Sutherland's young players are bound to improve their game as they gain more experience and players like Sam Cucitti, Roche, Davidson, O'Reilly, Griffiths, Shrubsole and others should stand out.

● CORINTHIANS are very likely to face the new

ers as last year and although it would be a fairly strong side, I doubt very much if they could keep pace with the leaders.

Corinthians have a great asset in Derek Griffin and the strength of the side depends greatly on his retention.

The side is weak in forwards, but past experience shows that the club has the ability to attract good players from England and this could happen again in 1968.

● WESTERN SUBURBS' earlier three-year plan for promotion went overboard and the club's intention is now to make a strong claim for the premiership next year.

To achieve this goal, the club's well-publicised apprentice-professional scheme was turned into just professionalism and four up-and-coming youngsters have been signed by the club.

With the exception of Peter Pont from Newcastle, professionalism does not seem to have made a very great difference and unless Wests have something else in mind, the 1968 season is not going to be an easy walkover for them.

● MARCONI, one of the most underestimated teams in Second Division last season, could well surprise in 1968 despite the tougher opposition.

Marconi possess one of the tightest defences, and with the players having one season of familiarisation, the team could improve, particularly if the front line would be reinforced with strikers of ability.

● HORNSBY-NE, free from injuries to key players that nagged the club almost throughout last season, will be expected to field a strong side which would be hard to topple.

The return of Nicky Bastas to the forward line would strengthen Hornsby's front line considerably but the side is still far from ready for First Division.

● BALGOWNIE could yet be another side to stake a claim for promotion next season.

Traditionally, Balgownie have always fielded a strong combination and last year's disappointing and frustrating performance by the club is very unlikely to repeat itself.

● NORTH BANKSTOWN, still jubilant after a successful initial season, will strive to go even higher in 1968, and judging on last season's performances, this team has the ability to repeat the big upsets they sprung one more experienced sides.

Essentially composed of young district clubmen, North Bankstown play the game as one combined effort with hardly any individuality at all.

● LANE COVE will be battling as resolutely as ever to keep away from the danger zone.

Experience gained last season will come very handy but they have to improve both defence and forward line to keep their head above the water line.



# FLOTTA LAURO